

Vista Transit Short Range Transit Plan Study

June 2014

Prepared by
Arizona Department of Transportation

Introduction

The purpose of this project is to provide a plan for Vista Transit to deal with the transition from a 5311 Transit System to a Section 5307 program and to update the Five Year Plan (Short Range Transit Plan) in the context of this transition. In addition, this study will also research and identify funding sources and regional partnerships that can assist with improving the system.

Public Meeting

To inform and involve community members of the study, ADOT hosted a public meeting at the Sierra Vista Library on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 from 5:30-7 p.m. Staff present at the meeting included Jennifer Pyne and Andrew Ittigson (URS), Shilpa Panicker, Mike Normand, Bill Harmon and C.T. Revere (ADOT), Mayor Rick Mueller, Richard Cayer, Perri Fletcher, Scott Dooley (Sierra Vista). In addition to a presentation, there was an opportunity for Q&A, comments and recommendations on areas for improvement. In total, 23 members of the community were in attendance.

Newspaper Advertisement

A newspaper advertisement providing the date and location of the public meeting was published in the following newspaper:

- Sierra Vista Herald (May 21 and May 28, 2014)

A copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix A.

Presentation and Meeting Materials

A Power Point presentation was given at the meeting, and a comment form was provided to each attendee of the meeting.

The following comments/questions were received during the presentation:

- Current service hours are very restricted
- Limiting demand-response service to ¼ mile from nearest bus stop will create hardship for riders with disabilities
- What will be the hours of Saturday curbside service? (Same as fixed route hours)
- Concern about people in wheelchairs and those using walkers in heat and cold when demand-response service is moved farther from some homes
- Consider the benefit of federal employee subsidy for using public transit to enhance ridership
- Is there a residency requirement for Flex Route south of Sierra Vista? (No. Anyone may access pickup locations)
- Consider later transit service for workers and residents of Fort Huachuca
- How will connecting with other communities help?
- Consider routes to and from Tucson

A copy of the comment form can be found in Appendix B of this report.

Comment Form Summary

The following comments were received and returned via the comment form that was provided at the public meeting. All comments received are included in this summary.

- Great job!
- Encourage increasing demand-response service to seven days a week
- At least from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., consider going beyond ¼ mile distance from nearest stop
- Increase demand-response service to seven days a week
- Study team should ride each bus line during the week and on Saturday before making recommendations
- Need to provide efficient, safe and affordable transportation to seniors and people with disabilities
- Submitted a letter (included in summary) and would like everybody to read instead of writing it twice

A copy of written comments received can be found in Appendix C of this report.

Appendix A

Please Join Us Sierra Vista Short Range Transit Plan Study Public Meeting

The City of Sierra Vista and the Arizona Department of Transportation are conducting the Sierra Vista Short Range Transit Plan Study. This study will result in a new Short Range Transit Plan (SRTTP) for the next five years of transit service for the City of Sierra Vista and Vista Transit, the city's transit operator. This plan will address changes or improvements to transit service and operations, and strategies for sustainable funding for transit services. The federal funding program that supports Vista Transit operations will be changing in October 2014, and this study will evaluate changes that are needed to comply with the new program requirements and to best leverage federal funds for local transit services. Your input is needed on the proposed plan.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Join us on Tuesday, June 3, 2014, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the public open house to share your thoughts on the Short Range Transit Plan.

Sierra Vista Library, Mona Bishop Room
2600 E Tacoma St., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635



Persons that require a reasonable accommodation based on language or disability should contact ADOT at projects@azdot.gov or 855.712.8530. Requests should be made as early as possible to ensure the state has an opportunity to address the accommodation.



ADOT

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
855.712.8530
azdot.gov/SierraVista

Appendix C

Sierra Vista Short-Range Transit Study

Sierra Vista Library – Tuesday, June 3, 2014

COMMENT FORM

Please provide us any comments regarding the Sierra Vista Short-Range Transit Study.

Great job! Encourage increasing Demand
~~Encourage~~ Service to: 7 days/week;

At least 10am - 7pm, going beyond 3/4 mile
distance from last stop, especially as it is
only a "suggestion".

I also invite those making/submitting the
final proposals (ADOT & consultants)

(2) Making the final decision (City Council)
actually RIDE the bus (each line ideally,
during the week, once on Saturday, AND
STAY HOME one SUNDAY.

Actually EXPERIENCE what you may be
implementing/putting into effect.

Absolutely need to provide efficient, safe & affordable
transpo to SRV & people w/ disabilities.

Comments & Thought on reducing curbside services to handicap people to within $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the nearest bus stop.

Those of you who are well abled to drive & get around easily, can't grasp how difficult, what hardship, it is, depending on city transportation to get us where we need to go for, getting medicine, buying groceries, Dr's appointments etc. As it is, our hours that are available to us are very constricted.

Thirteen years (13) ago, we were going to build in Canyon De Flores, but decided against it for there was no city bus service out there. I knew that eventually the time would come where I may have to depend on the city transportation to get me to where I needed to go, so we chose to buy where bus service would be available. In the last 13 years since I've lived here, I have seen the bus service reduced from going down Golden Eagle, every 20 – 30 minutes, to going from \$1.00 (each way) on curbside to \$2.00 (each way) to have curbside available on Sat's to no curbside & than we have to call for a return trip by 3:00 P.M. for everything is rerouted to Ft. Huachuca. I live right off BST & St Andrews Dr. The new stop proposal, for me, would be about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile or more for me to walk, which is impossible.

The only other alternative would be to catch a cab. My trips to town would go from \$34.00 a month (based on 2 trips a week) to \$80.00. When the Cab Co. hear of it, you can count on their prices going up. The people w/walkers, wheelchairs can't be accommodated in a Cab And the Cab's are not always dependable

Since June of 2013 I used Curbside service 136 times. That's based on a one way trip. Double that & you can see I am NOT an occasional rider.

When people see me, they can't see my disability. I've been Legally Blind since the very early age of 5. Started wearing glasses at 7.

Feel free to call, ask any further questions , if you need more information.

Thanks for taking time to listening or reading this letter

Georgie Schumaker



2930 Sun Crest Dr

Sierra Vista,AZ. 85650

520-508-9566